

Mr. LEVIN. The House fiscal year 1996 Agriculture Appropriations bill proposes to fund the Michigan Biotechnology Consortium—also read Institute—at \$1 million. This is approximately a 50% reduction from the FY95 level of \$1.995 million. I understand that the budget deficit demands sacrifice from all agencies and grant recipients, but a 50% cut will severely affect the cutting-edge work done by and the pace of technological innovation at MBI.

The Senate FY96 Agriculture Appropriations bill does not include funding for MBI under CSREES. However, the Senate conferees have receded to the House level for MBI in past years, with strong support from the Michigan Congressional delegation. I urge the Senate Conferees to once again accept the House's funding level and, if possible, return MBI funding to its FY95 level.

Mr. COCHRAN. I am aware of the valuable CSREES work that has been conducted by MSU/MBI. I assure my colleagues from Michigan that I will revisit MBI's FY96 funding in conference and will remember the Senators' strong support for MBI.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 464. An act to make the reporting deadlines for studies conducted in Federal court demonstration districts consistent with the deadlines for pilot districts, and for other purposes.

S. 532. An act to clarify the rules governing venue, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 641. An act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The message further announced the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements

with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1451. A communication from the Comptroller General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission in the special impoundment message for fiscal year 1995 (dated February 6, 1995); referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Budget, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology, Committee on the Environment and Public Works, Committee on Finance, Committee on Labor and Human Resources and the Committee on Small Business.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-291. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87"

"Whereas, family violence is a severe problem in Texas, accounting for more than 22 percent of violent crime in the state; and

"Whereas, victims of family violence are frequently handicapped in their efforts to leave their abusers because of lack of support and shelter; and

"Whereas, current restrictions on food stamp applications may force some victims to return to their abusers due to requirements that a victim must seek and obtain refuge in a battered women's shelter to qualify for immediate reissuance of food stamps; and

"Whereas, in all of Texas there are only 62 full-service battered women's shelters, and these are frequently too crowded to accept new victims; and

"Whereas, the current federal policy frequently punishes victims of family violence: Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to amend the food stamp program by adding a special provision to allow food stamp workers to reissue food stamp benefits to family members fleeing from domestic violence, regardless of where they seek refuge, provided the families present evidence that they were or are victims of domestic violence; and, be it further

"Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States."

POM-292. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Township of Old Bridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey relative to demonstration programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-293. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Appropriations.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87"

"Whereas, chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome is the medical term for a group of symptoms that include debilitating fatigue, fever, depression, and a reduced ability to undertake normal daily activities or to function productively; and

"Whereas, the disease affects people of all ages, interrupting the education and employment of those afflicted and imposing enormous social costs ranging from burdensome medical expenses to increased demand for disability payments and other social services; and

"Whereas, the syndrome was first recognized 10 years ago, but there has been little effort to find either a cause or a cure for the disease, with the result that patients are often misdiagnosed, receive inadequate medical treatment, and can face difficulty in receiving social services and public assistance; and

"Whereas, both present and future generations would benefit greatly if the resources of government were marshalled to eliminate the personal and social costs of this insidious and debilitating disease: Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to increase federal funding for research relating to chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome; and, be it further

"Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all Members of the Texas delegation to the Congress, with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America."

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted: